

Rashid, Bhuvneshwar guide SRH to their first win



Sunrisers Hyderabad player Rashid Khan celebrates a wicket

ANI | Dubai

Rashid Khan's brilliant performance and Bhuvneshwar Kumar's gutsy show with the ball guided Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) to a 15 run win over Delhi Capitals (DC) Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

Rashid took three key wickets of Shikhar Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer, and Rishabh Pant to hand SRH their first win of the tournament.

Chasing 163 runs, DC got off to a worst possible start with opener Prithvi Shaw back in the dugout in the very first over.

The early wicket slowed the innings as Dhawan and Iyer played less risky shots in the powerplay. Iyer scored 17 runs off 21 balls before Rashid dismissed him in the eighth over.

Rishabh Pant then joined Dhawan in the middle and the duo formed a paltry 20 run stand before Rashid spun the web again. The left-handed Dhawan scored 34 runs off 31 balls as Delhi reeled at 62/3.

Shimron Hetmyer stitched a 42 run stand with Pant. Hetmyer got out in the 16th over in order to control the mounting run rate. In the very next over, Pant too departed after scoring 28 runs.

Marcus Stoinis too failed to leave a mark and scored just 11 runs. Delhi kept losing wickets

I think I don't put pressure of performing in mind. I try to focus on things I can do. I decided it might take three balls to realise what is the right pace on this track

RASHID KHAN

in the death overs and eventually fell 15 runs short of the target.

Earlier after being asked to bat first, SRH got off to a brilliant start as both openers, David Warner and Jonny Bairstow, struck regular boundaries.

The duo took the team over the 50-run mark in the seventh over. They formed a massive 77-run partnership before Amit Mishra dismissed Warner (45) in the 10th over.

Manish Pandey then came out to bat but failed to leave a mark after Mishra scalped his wicket.

Pandey's dismissal brought Kane Williamson on the field and he, along with Bairstow, took the team over the 100-run mark in the 14th over.

Bairstow went on to complete his half-century in the 18th over but in the same over, Kagiso Rabada got hold of him, ending the batsman's 53-run innings.

Djokovic in cruise control as row sparks video replay call

Novak Djokovic began his bid for French Open glory with an emphatic first-round victory over Mikael Ymer

● Kristina Mladenovic called for a football-style VAR system to be introduced in tennis after her opponent profited from a double bounce

AFP | Paris

Novak Djokovic's bid to become the first man in half a century to win all four Grand Slam titles twice got off to a straightforward start yesterday at Roland Garros as a 'double bounce' row prompted calls for video replays to be introduced in tennis.

World number one Djokovic, returning to Grand Slam action for the first time since his US Open disqualification, eased past Sweden's Mikael Ymer, ranked 80, in straight sets 6-0, 6-2, 6-3.

It was his 32nd win in 33 matches in 2020 and kept him on course for a second French Open title following his 2016 triumph, and 18th career major.

"It's always a pleasure to return to Paris on Philippe Chatrier, this important court. The atmosphere is a little different this year with few fans but I remain motivated to win the title," said Djokovic, only one of two men to have defeated 12-time champion Rafael Nadal in 15 years in Paris.

Djokovic, who suffered no immediate hangover from his US Open controversy by quickly wrapping up a record 36th Masters title in Rome on the eve of Roland Garros, next faces Lithuania's Ricardas Berankis.

The 33-year-old is in the sec-



Novak Djokovic hits a return

ond round for a record-equaling 16th time, matching Guillermo Vilas and Nadal.

Kristina Mladenovic called for a football-style VAR system to be introduced in tennis after her opponent profited from a double bounce to help knock the Frenchwoman out of her home Grand Slam.

Mladenovic was 5-1 up and with a set point against Laura Siegemund when the German scooped a winner despite the ball appearing to bounce twice. The incident was missed by chair umpire Eva Asderaki.

World number 44 Mladenovic pleaded in vain before Siegemund took full advantage, racing into the next round with a 7-5, 6-3 win.

'Replace human with camera'

"It would be great to have that," said Mladenovic when asked if video replays should be introduced.

"It'd be a pity to replace a human with a camera but to err is human. I don't see how the umpire could not see it. Unfortunately, she continues at Roland

Garros but I do not."

Siegemund defended her actions.

"If in that call, I'm coming running full speed, if in that call I say, 'Oh, it was a double bounce,' and later I see on the video it was not, I would be angry at myself. So I think in that situation, that was a close call," she said.

"That's what the umpire is there for. I think she has better chances than me to see what has happened exactly."

Second seed Karolina Pliskova ended Mayar Sherif's fairytale Grand Slam breakthrough to set up a second round clash against former champion Jelena Ostapenko.

Pliskova, a semi-finalist in 2017, squandered eight set points in the opener as world number 172 Sherif, the first Egyptian woman to play in the main draw at a Slam, took a shock lead.

However, the Czech's greater experience eventually told as she recovered to progress 6-7 (9/11), 6-2, 6-4.

"I think she was playing very

32

matches have been won by Novak Djokovic out of 33 this year and is on course for a second French Open title following his 2016 triumph

smart today. Of course she had a lot of confidence just winning three matches from quallies," said Pliskova of her 24-year-old opponent. "She had nothing to lose."

Latvia's Ostapenko, the world 43, won her first match at the French Open since sweeping to her shock 2017 title when she fired 46 winners past Madison Brengle of the United States to win 6-2, 6-1.

'Pressure all gone'

"After I won here it was a tough time. I had to get used to the pressure but now it's all gone," said the 23-year-old Ostapenko.

Denmark's Clara Tauson, just 17 and a qualifier, unleashed 48 winners to knock out American 21st seed and US Open semi-finalist Jennifer Brady 6-4, 3-6, 9-7. Tauson also saved two match points on her way to a maiden career main draw win.

Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin recovered from a break down in the final set to defeat 125th-ranked Russian Liudmila Samsonova 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Fourth seed Kenin, who dumped out Serena Williams in Paris a year ago, fought back from 2-0 down in the decider to advance to a second-round tie against Romania's Ana Bogdan.

Hidd go back top, a point ahead of Riffa, Muharraq

● Hidd clinch victory over Al Hala

● Hidd claimed their 11th win in 16 matches and improved to 35 points to move one ahead of defending champions Riffa and Muharraq

TDT | Manama



Action from the match

Hidd returned to the top of the table last night in the 2019/2020 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League following a hard-earned 2-1 victory over Al Hala.

Brazilian left-winger Carlos Geovane and Bahraini international midfielder Abdulwahab Al Malood were on target for Hidd, while Ahmed Rashid scored Hala's lone consolation.

Al Malood supplied the winning strike, finding the net in the 48th minute after Geovane and Rashid both scored in the opening half.

With the crucial result, Hidd claimed their 11th win in 16 matches and improved to 35 points to move one ahead of defending champions Riffa and

Muharraq, who were former joint-leaders and who have 34 points apiece.

All three teams have just two matches apiece remaining, setting the stage for a thrilling three-horse race to end the current season.

Hidd still have to play Manama and Busaiteen, Riffa will

face Al Najma and East Riffa, while Muharraq are to take on Hala and Manama in their last two games.

Matches are scheduled to resume on Friday, but none of the top three are in action. They are scheduled to take to the pitch on Saturday in the first of their final two fixtures.



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Liverpool's Thiago tests positive for Covid-19

AFP | London

Liverpool midfielder Thiago Alcantara has tested positive for coronavirus, the Premier League champions confirmed yesterday.

The 29-year-old, who joined from Bayern Munich this month, missed Monday's 3-1 win over Arsenal and will now self-isolate.

"Thiago Alcantara has tested positive for Covid-19 and is currently self-isolating according to the necessary guidelines," Liverpool said in a statement.

"The club has, and will continue to follow, all protocols relating to Covid-19 and Thiago will remain in self-isolation for the required period of time."

The Spanish international will miss another clash with Arsenal in the League Cup on Thursday as well as Sunday's



Thiago Alcantara

Premier League trip to Aston Villa, but could be available for the Merseyside derby at Everton on October 17.

On Monday, the Premier League announced 10 players or staff had tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous week, the highest number of infections since mass testing began in May.